

## 2. Large capacity cesspools in Hawaii - Progress & Challenges



## 3. Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility (LWRF)

- \* Maui County owns and operates the Lahaina LWRF, which processes approximately 4-6 mgd of domestic wastewater; ~ 1 mgd is fully uv disinfected and reused at the plant and for offsite irrigation while the remaining 3-5 mgd is disposed into four injection wells sited only 1500 feet from the ocean.
- \* The County has a Class V UIC permit issued by EPA which expired in 2005. During the renewal process, serious concerns arose about the movement of injectate from the wells to the ocean, based on research linking the wells to wastewater constituents detected in the shallow coastal waters.
- \* EPA directed the County to seek a 401 CWA cert for their injection wells as a condition of UIC permit renewal; Maui County submitted an application to Hawaii DOH which is still pending.
- \* To better assess the impact of the LWRF's effluent on the coastal waters, EPA is working with Hawaii DOH and the Army Corps to conduct a tracer study and coastal seep sampling. This work began in the summer of 2011 and is ongoing. Preliminary data have documented discharge of tracer dye from the injection wells at the shallow coastal seeps. Research will continue in order to fully evaluate effluent travel time and to characterize what is being discharged at the seeps.
- \* In September 2011, the Region entered into a Consent Agreement with Maui County which requires full uv disinfection of all wastewater at the LWRF by 2013. The County is also required to monitor their effluent for several CWA pollutants, including a number of toxic constituents.
- \* We expect a conclusion of the tracer study and seep sampling by Summer 2012; these data will inform Hawaii DOH's action on the County's 401 cert application.
- \* After resolution of the 401 certification, EPA anticipates proceeding with UIC permit renewal and conferring with Hawaii DOH on the potential need for an NPDES permit for LWRF.

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